

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley:

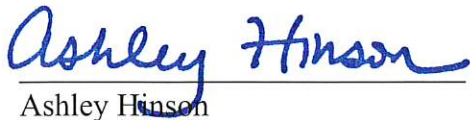
As you craft the fiscal year 2024 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$500,000 for the Clayton County Affordable Housing project as a community project funding request through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Initiative account. The intended recipient is the Clayton County Development Group, located at 200 East Bridge Street, Elkader, IA 52043.

This project will provide support for the Clayton County Affordable Housing fund to construct 10 to 15 new homes across the county. A recent study found that Clayton County has a shortage of 256 homes in the price range for the county's average wage earner. Extreme weather events over the past 20 years have exacerbated the community's housing shortage as flooding has destroyed over 90 homes in Clayton County over that span. By supporting the strong demand for affordable housing in the region, this project will allow local businesses to continue to attract talent, welcome working families, and bring greater opportunities to the Clayton County community.

Clayton County is home to a strong manufacturing industry which continues to be a strong economic driver for the region. The growth of many businesses in the region is constrained by workforce challenges, and resolving these issues will be crucial to sustain the economy in rural communities across Iowa, including in Clayton County. Such projects are core to the mission of the Community Development Block Grant Program, which aims to address challenges to support community development and build more resilient communities. This project is essential to the growth of economies in Iowa's Second Congressional District and has robust support from local officials, business owners, and other leaders in the community.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY24 transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. I appreciate your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Hinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations